



A MESSAGE FROM SDVSOA CHAIRMAN RICHARD

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“Welcome Home Vietnam Era Veterans Celebration”

“Thank you for your service.” said the two women as we pulled out of the Ft. Pierre Church parking lot after asking them how to find the restaurant putting on the morning breakfast for this past weekend’s “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans” Celebration. We had on our “Vietnam Veteran” caps given out back in 2006 from the first observance. It was a good weekend.

The Agent Orange meeting went on for 2 ½ hours with very sad testimony on the lasting effects of Agent Orange on veterans and their offspring. Besides the multiple Presumptive Diseases recognized by the VA, the children of exposed veterans are having multiple effects as well. It would behoove us as VSO’s to encourage Vietnam veterans to seek information and help regarding their exposure. Presenters told the veterans that these effects may go out multiple generations. There is a bill coming before our U. S. Congress which, if passed, will study the effects of toxic chemical exposure from all of the wars the past 50 years to include looking at the children and grandchildren of veterans.

Do try to watch the film that will be on Public TV soon depicting our tragic departure from South Vietnam. It is a powerful film.

Other highlights from the weekend were the hospitality of the Pierre-Ft. Pierre citizens, the meals put on by the local American Legion Post, and the gathering at the Capitol on Sunday.

Thank you for your service!